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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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RECEIVED -2 1980 DIA RTS-2B

(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

REPORT NO:

TITLE: Political/Military - Argentine Disappeared (U)

DATE OF INFO: 800507 (YY MM DD)

REPORT DATE: 800514 (YY MM DD)

ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

REQ REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: US Embassy Cable

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SUMMARY: (U) This report forwards an Amemb cable which addresses the Argentine disappeared issue.

ORIG COMMENTS: A. ~~(C)~~ One of the first ingredients needed for a return to a civilian government in Argentina is a guarantee for the military that they will not, at a later date and under a civilian government, be prosecuted for abuses which took place during the dirty war against subversive elements.

B. ~~(C)~~ This guarantee has been called by some military as the Ley de Olvida (The law to Forget). This report tends to indicate that at least one political party now acknowledges the fact that they have to cooperate if they want to get back into the power circle. It is essential that the military be negotiating from a position of strength when they return the power (to make the Ley de Olvida work). In this formula an improved economic situation and a reduction in inflation appear essential.

C. ~~(C)~~ This report is also of interest in its analysis that the majority of the population does not show much interest in the disappeared issue. This is backed up by RO's personal experience. Most Argentines acknowledge that abuses take place in war. The Argentine approach to the disappeared issue is in keeping with the way the Argentine population views most social issues. If it doesn't affect you directly keep your nose out of it.

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DD FORM 1396 1 DEC 79

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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REPORT NO:

PROJECT NO: None

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REQUEST EVALUATION: ☐Y ☒N
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1 ENCLOSURE(S): (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(

1. Amemb Buenos Aires
Cable 3831 ~~(C)~~ 3 pgs

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E.O. ~~XGDS~~ ~~GDS 5/7/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR P~~

TAGS: SHUM AR

SUBJECT: ~~(C)~~ BALBIN TURNS HIS BACK ON DISAPPEARED

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO: USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUENOS AIRES 3831

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

1. (U) OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS RICARDO BALBIN, LEADER OF THE RADICAL PARTY, HAS ON THREE OCCASIONS PUBLICLY ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF THE ARGENTINE DISAPPEARED. ON EACH HE HAS DELIVERED THE SAME HARSH MESSAGE: "THEY ARE NOT SING, THEY ARE DEAD." THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS BY BALBIN THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED CEASE LOOKING FOR THE LOVED ONES AND BEGIN TO ACCEPT WHAT "EVERY ARGENTINE KNOWS," THAT THEY ARE NOT COMING HOME. BALBIN STATED TOO THAT THE "MISSING PERSONS CASE IS CLOSED" AND HIS CONCERN TODAY IS "ALLEVIATING THE PAIN AND PREVENTING ANOTHER GENERATION FROM SUFFERING." IN OTHER WORDS, THE COUNTRY SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE

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DCM:MCHAPIN

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FUTURE AND NOT RAKE OVER THE PAST.

2. (U) THE MOTHERS OF THE DISAPPEARED, AMONG OTHERS, PUBLICLY CHALLENGED BALBIN. THEY CALLED UPON HIM TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION IF HE KNOWS FOR A FACT THAT THEY ARE DEAD. THEY ALSO STATED THAT IF BALBIN REALLY BELIEVES THAT THE DISAPPEARED ARE DEAD THEN HE SHOULD SAY THAT THEY WERE "ASSASSINATED" BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE DISAPPEARED WERE TAKEN BY THE SECURITY FORCES. IN THE FACE OF THIS CHALLENGE, BALBIN HAS REFUSED TO RETREAT ON HIS BASIC ASSERTION OF THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THE NEED TO PUT THIS EXPERIENCE BEHIND THE COUNTRY.

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3. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: BALBIN IS THE LEADING DEMOCRATIC CENTRIST POLITICIAN IN ARGENTINA. HIS REMARKS ARE DESIGNED CHIEFLY TO CALM AND REASSURE THE MILITARY THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A FUTURE RADICAL GOVERNMENT--THE RADICALS WILL CONDUCT NO NUREMBERG, BALBIN IS SAYING. IN DOING SO BALBIN IS REFLECTING, AS WELL, THE VIEW OF MANY OTHER NON-MILITARY ARGENTINES WHO FEEL THAT UNLESS THE PAST IS FORGOTTEN THE COUNTRY WILL BE CONDEMNED TO RELIVE IT.

4. ~~(C)~~ BALBIN'S TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE, TOO, REFLECTS THIS AMBITIOUS POLITICIAN'S CONCLUSION ON HOW CONCERNED MOST OF THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC IS WITH THE GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE GOA. THOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS NOURISH THE HOPE THAT THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC

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WILL EVENTUALLY BE AROUSED ON THE ISSUE, BALBIN, LIKE MOST OF THE PRACTICING POLITICIANS STILL AROUND, HAS MADE QUITE ANOTHER JUDGMENT: HE CANNOT BE HURT WITH THE PUBLIC BY SEEKING TO BURY THE ISSUE, EVEN IF DOING SO PUTS HIM ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE MOTHERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

CASTRO

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